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SUBJECT: 2003 TERRORISM REPORT FOR PAKISTAN

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A) Pakistan continues to be one of the United States' most important partners in the Global Coalition against terrorism. Pakistan's military, intelligence and law enforcement agencies are cooperating closely with the U.S. and other nations to identify, interdict and eliminate terrorism at home in Pakistan and abroad. This includes ongoing efforts to capture and destroy the remnants of al-Qaida and the Taliban that remain in the region. To date, over 500 suspected operatives of these groups have been successfully apprehended with the cooperation of Pakistani authorities. Among those captured in 2003 were Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, a key figure in the events of September 11, and Waleed bin Attash, a prime suspect in the October 2000 attack on the U.S.S. Cole. The GOP has also demonstrated its resolve by cracking down on previously banned militant organizations that had regrouped under new names, freezing their assets and detaining their leaders. Along its historically porous border with Afghanistan, Pakistan's military is undertaking operations to capture or kill trans-border terrorists. In October 2003, security forces achieved notable success in an operation that killed 8 and captured 18 al-Qaida and Taliban in the remote tribal area of South Waziristan Agency.

Pursuant to its obligations under U.N. resolutions 1267, 1390 and 1455 Pakistan continues to work with the U.N. Sanctions Committee to freeze the assets of individuals and groups identified as terrorist entities.

At the same time, Pakistan faces difficult challenges as it does its part in prosecuting the war on terrorism. The GOP has drafted but has yet to submit to Parliament for approval anti-money laundering legislation, a critical weapon in the terror-fighting arsenal. Pakistan's beleaguered public education system is a source of concern both from a security standpoint and in terms of the country's future. Religious schools, offering a limited curriculum and sometimes promoting violent ideologies have stepped in to fill the vacuum. Reform and investment are urgently needed to broaden curriculum content and revitalize the public education system.

B) Pakistan's judicial system continues to respond to both international and domestic cases of terrorism. In 2003, Pakistan continued to use its Anti-Terrorism Courts (created in 1997 to expedite the handling of terrorist cases). Following in the wake of the Daniel Pearl kidnap/murder convictions in 2002, government prosecutors in April 2003 obtained convictions for defendants charged with organizing the bombing of the US Consulate in Karachi the previous year. Mohammad Imran and Mohammad Hanif both received the death penalty while two accomplices were given life sentences for their roles in the vehicle bomb attack on the Consulate which killed 12 Pakistanis. In November 2003, the same court handed death sentences to three members of the banned extremist group, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, for planning and committing sectarian murders. Pakistani investigators, as demonstrated in the aftermath of the 2002 church attack in Islamabad that killed two Embassy family members, have shown greater willingness to grant their U.S. counterparts access to evidence.

C) No Pakistani nationals were formally extradited to the U.S. under the 1931 Extradition Treaty in 2003. However, the GOP continues to facilitate and has stepped-up the transfer of captured terrorists to U.S. custody.

D) Impediments to the investigation and prosecution of suspected terrorists include the lack of centralized databases to collect, process and disseminate timely information leading to criminal convictions. Pakistan lacks a National Crime Information Center, Department of Motor Vehicles, Social Security System or other database systems commonly used in developed countries. Sophisticated law enforcement and investigative techniques need greater development as well.

Pakistan's efforts to combat terrorism have also been hampered by its delay in passing key anti-money laundering legislation. In 2002, key anti-money laundering legislation - drafted with U.S. assistance - failed to be enacted. A revised version has, however, been approved by the Cabinet and is expected to be sent to Parliament. This legislation is an essential tool in broadening the capacity of Pakistani authorities to monitor suspicious financial transactions. Such legislation will enable law enforcement and financial regulatory agencies to develop the necessary resources and technical infrastructure to pursue sources of terrorist financing.

Despite these hindrances, Pakistan has made a significant step forward with the recent implementation of a central fingerprint repository system which now includes some 70,000 10-print cards. Pakistan's progress with respect to developing the legal and technical infrastructure required to track terrorist financing has been incremental and the USG is encouraging it to do more in this area.

The GOP has taken many important steps to bolster its terror-fighting capabilities. However, many of its resources are new, untested and will require time to prove their effectiveness.

E) President Musharraf, Prime Minister Jamali and other senior Pakistani officials have repeatedly condemned terrorism and reaffirmed the government's commitment to putting a stop to it both inside Pakistan and abroad. There is an understanding at all levels of the government that it is in Pakistan's interest to be a proactive member of the global fight against terrorism. This commitment has been manifested in the high-level of cooperation the U.S. has received from the GOP in ongoing terrorist investigations in the United States and abroad. With regard to threats on U.S. soil, such efforts include providing timely intelligence and support to U.S. agencies in identifying and neutralizing terrorist cells. These efforts play an important role in helping prevent attacks on American citizens, installations and interests. Pakistan also provides significant assistance in the investigation of international terrorism, acting on leads provided to its counterterrorism and law enforcement agencies by the U.S. and other nations. In September 2003, Pakistani intelligence and law enforcement agents raided two religious seminaries in Karachi, uncovering a major student terrorist cell. Those arrested included foreign nationals from Malaysia, Indonesia and Burma.

Following the November 2003 bombing in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in which 21 people died, Pakistan's National Assembly unanimously passed a resolution condemning the attack and praising President Musharraf's "courageous and consistent support to the war on terrorism."

After the September 11 attacks, Pakistani authorities arrested hundreds of suspected extremists and banned five militant groups. However, many of the detainees were later quietly released and a number of the organizations resurfaced under new names and became active in 2003. Jaish-e-Muhammad, for example, reemerged under the name Jamat-ul-Furqan while Lashkar-e-Taiba was reconstituted as Jamaat-ul-Dawa. Both jihadi groups have been associated with

terrorist activity in Kashmir while others are known to promote sectarian violence. In November 2003, responding to increasing alarm over the active reemergence of these and other extremist groups, the Musharraf government ordered a major crackdown, banning 5 groups:

Jamat-ul-Ansar (formerly Harakat ul-Mujahedin)  
Jamat-ul-Furqan (formerly Jaish-e-Muhammad)  
Hizbu-ul-Tahreer (UK-based)  
Millat-e-Islamia (formerly Sippah-e-Sihaba)  
Tahreek-e-Pakistan (formerly Tehnik-e-Jafria Pakistan)

A sixth group, Jamaat-ul-Dawa was placed on a "watch list." As part of its actions, the government closed offices, froze assets and detained over 60 individuals. Although it is too early to determine the duration or effectiveness of these actions, the USG is encouraged by the GOP's willingness to forcefully address the problem.

(F) In 2003, there has been significant progress in several areas of Pakistan's ongoing efforts to enhance its terrorist-fighting capabilities both within and beyond its borders. Perhaps the most important development is the implementation of the first federal civilian counterterrorism force, established within the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

#### Special Investigation Group (SIG)

Established in late 2002 with U.S. financial and technical assistance, the Special Investigation Group (SIG) is tasked with facilitating a unified investigative response at both the national and provincial levels. The SIG is comprised of 4 components: intelligence collection, investigations, agency liaison and cyber-terrorism. On October 7, the SIG graduated 50 officers trained in special counterterrorism techniques. Provincial Criminal Investigation Divisions (PCIDs) in all 4 provinces will create sections to mirror the SIG structure and expand its reach to the regional level. The SIG and its constituent parts are expected to be fully operational by mid-2004. The USG and other governments are working closely with the GOP to explore more ways to augment Pakistan's terror-fighting capabilities, particularly in the areas of DNA collection/analysis, post-blast forensics and cyber-terrorism.

#### Crisis Response Team

To provide a tactical dimension to Pakistan's counterterrorism program, the USG is now training and equipping Crisis Response Teams (CRT). Modeled after SWAT teams in the United States, the CRTs are being trained to deal with "high risk" encounters with violent criminals and terrorists.

#### Central Fingerprint Repository

Pakistan's first central fingerprint repository is being established following Pakistan's conversion to the international standard 10-print card. A key step forward in aiding authorities to identify terrorists and other criminals, the 10-print card file now holds 70,000 cards. Another 10,000 cards will be added by the end of 2003. The next step now underway is to procure and install an Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), a highly sophisticated data management system that will assist law enforcement agencies to rapidly identify suspects. Funded by the USG, the system should be operational in 2004.

#### PISCES

The Personal Identification Secure Comparison and Evaluation System (PISCES) is now operating at all major international airports in Pakistan and an expansion program is underway to install the system at all official sea and land entry points by the end of 2004. PISCES technology is helping Pakistan identify wanted criminals and terrorists attempting to transit its borders at official crossing points. Pakistani

authorities report that the system is already yielding results.

#### Border Security Assistance Program

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The USG remains committed to assisting Pakistan in securing its borders against trafficking in weapons, drugs, and infiltration by terrorists. Created in 2002, the \$73 million dollar Border Security Assistance Program provides aircraft, surveillance technology, communications equipment, transport and training to assist Pakistan in securing its western borders with Afghanistan and Iran. Related assistance efforts also provide funding for outpost construction and upgrade, training and other commodities. To date, 183 border personnel have been trained in port-of-entry operations and small unit tactics. In the previously inaccessible Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), \$24 million is being invested in the construction of 400k of roads. These roads provide critical access to security forces and have the added benefit of assisting in the economic advancement of historically underdeveloped areas.

G) While the GOP does not overtly support any international terrorist groups, it does provide diplomatic and moral support for Kashmiri militant groups, some of whom are linked to terrorist acts. There are indications that infiltration across the Line of Control between Pakistani and Indian-held Kashmir continue.

H) Host government's public statements have been uniformly supportive of our joint efforts in the war against terror.

I) President Musharraf said recently that Pakistan is at a "critical crossroads," faced with both immense opportunities in the world economy yet burdened by continuing threats from terrorism, religious extremism and sectarianism. Measured in terms of its public pronouncements and deployment of resources to counter these threats, Pakistan's commitment-level to the war on the terrorism can best be described as steadfast in 2003

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